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ABSTRACT

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT: In general, coaching improves student scores on achievement and aptitude tests--including the SAT--but not very much. While the SAT is not invulnerable to coaching programs, only a few students have found impressive results. Coaching produces the following average gains: On the SAT, .15 standard deviations, equivalent to 15 points on the SAT scale of 200 to 800 points. On other aptitude tests, .43 standard deviations, equivalent to a gain in IQ of approximately six points. On achievement tests, .25 standard deviations, or approximately two to three months on the grade-equivalent scale. Regardless of which of the three types of tests students are coached for, gains are greater when students (1) are given a pretest prior to coaching, (2) practice on tests identical to the criterion tests, and (3) practice more, on a regular schedule, for a longer period of time. In addition, high-ability students gain more from coaching programs than do lower ability students, who may need more explicit instruction. (Author)

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Highlights from Research on the Effects of Coaching for Tests

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In addition, high-ability students gain more from coaching programs than do lower ability students, who may need more explicit instruction.

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